

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL STATEMENT 2018

PREFACE

2018 marks four years of a Labour administration leading Cambridge City Council and much has been achieved, that is recorded elsewhere. Our focus here is on our future plans that we want to deliver for Cambridge and its residents, our plans for our 'city of considerable magic' from 2018 through to 2020 and beyond, and the commitments detailed below.

Cambridge has many opportunities but significant challenges to overcome too, including Government cuts which mean no core Government grant from 2019. Despite that, we are determined to protect and develop the services our residents need, particularly for those who need us most.

We will listen to residents to get our services right, working with residents and businesses, and with the Council's highly professional staff and with our many partners, including our city's hugely impressive voluntary sector and community groups.

Since 2016 we have, amongst many other things:

- secured £70 million for 500 new Council homes at social rent
- bid for circa £193 million to move Anglian Water's Chesterton water recycling centre, which is essential to develop the wider area and will be starting work on consulting the community on its future
- won with others a commitment from Government for a Cambridge South Station by 2022, a station with nearly zero cars except for disabled access.

We will 'green' Cambridge by cutting energy usage and by leading initiatives to promote cycling, including the new north-south Chisholm Trail. We will pioneer plans to cut emissions from buses and taxis and other vehicles, all key steps towards our targets of a city centre Clean Air Zone and a zero carbon city by 2050.

We will also use the millions in extra annual income we have generated since 2014 to protect our services, invest in property and new affordable homes, and in financially viable green projects that can both reduce our emissions and deliver value for money for our residents and city.

Please see below our seven part Annual Statement.

Councillor Lewis Herbert
Leader of Cambridge City Council
lewis.herbert@cambridge.gov.uk

PART ONE: DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY FOR CAMBRIDGE AND A FAIR SHARE FOR ALL

The Council will:

Invest at least an additional £200,000 in 2018 in Anti-Poverty projects, supporting children and families in greatest need in our city with new opportunities – making a total of over £1.5 million invested since 2014.

Aspire to further increase the number of Cambridge employers paying the Real Living Wage. Council efforts since 2014 have lifted the number accredited employers well above 50.

Work with large employers, like the thirty University colleges not yet Real Living Wage-accredited, asking them to follow the example of the recent decision by the University of Cambridge to seek accreditation.

Pay all Council staff at least £10 an hour from April 2018, giving our lowest paid an essential pay rise.

Continue to provide assistance to households threatened with eviction by the Bedroom Tax that was introduced by the Coalition Government.

Work to minimise the negative impacts of Universal Credit, due to be brought in to Cambridge from October 2018.

End charges from April 2018 for child burials at the City Council cemetery and crematorium, bringing peace of mind to families.

Continue the Council's council-tax reduction scheme which has continued to help hundreds of the city's lowest-income families since the ending of the national scheme, and review its coverage in 2018.

Continue to develop vital citywide and local advice and support services for those most in need, building on the work by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), our skilled council advisers and other agencies. We will investigate expanding outreach to other locations of high need following the success of the 'Advice on Prescription' service at GP surgeries.

Implement the council's Building Stronger Communities Strategy, ensuring Council community resources and facilities are properly targeted at residents who would benefit the most from them.

Work with digitally excluded residents to enable them to access online services and so improve their opportunities and life chances, including via Cambridge Online.

PART TWO: TACKLING THE CITY'S HOUSING CRISIS AND BOLD STRATEGIC FUTURE PLANNING FOR CAMBRIDGE

The Council will:

Continue to ensure Council housing focuses on those most in housing need. Advance the programme to build 500 council homes, including at sites like Mill Road depot, where 50% of housing will be for City Homes tenants. This is in addition to the 242 new Council homes built since 2015, and represents a net increase in Council homes each year despite increased right-to-buy sales implemented by governments since 2010.

Work to persuade Cambridge developers to adopt the new Sustainable Housing Design Guide to reduce carbon emissions from new buildings, and ensure new Council housing meets the design and sustainability standards in the Guide:

www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cambridgeshire-sustainable-housing-design-guide.pdf

Make the most of opportunities to develop Council Housing Revenue Account sites, and others, including the provision of a range of market and intermediate housing options where it is feasible.

Continue to tackle empty homes in the private sector – building on the 100 empty Cambridge homes brought back into use in the last three years. Make full use of new 2019 powers to charge double Council tax on empty homes and so encourage owners to put properties back into use.

Consider whether we can develop further the Council's Housing Company, set up in 2015, to purchase and manage intermediate housing at submarket rents, and work with the Council's Housing Development Agency and our partners in the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver additional affordable homes.

Continue to provide housing advice to reduce, and help prevent, homelessness by offering early advice on alternative housing options, having helped 2000 households with advice in the last two years. We will use £430,000 of government money under the Homelessness Reduction Act, over the next two years to deliver more advice to homeless people to help them find lasting solutions.

Work with our statutory and voluntary sector partners to further reduce rough sleeping in our city - bucking the national trend. Rough sleeping increased in the UK for the seventh year running due to damaging government housing and welfare policies.

Continue to promote and expand Cambridge Street Aid, which has already raised more than £25,000 from public donations.

Develop and implement two Housing First pilots for long-term rough sleepers with complex needs.

Encourage private sector landlords to deliver safe, well managed, energy-efficient housing at a good standard, and continue to tackle those who do not.

Implement the extension of mandatory licensing for Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), which is likely to increase registrations from 400 to over 1200.

Support the submitted Cambridge Local Plan through its final stages to adoption, and for joint implementation with partners, in particular South Cambridgeshire District Council. The new Local Plan will guide development in Cambridge until 2031.

Work with partner local authorities, Registered Providers and developers to build new affordable homes across all tenures in accordance with the new Local Plan, with a focus on maximising delivery of social rent housing.

Develop a framework for considering viability assessments used by developers, make full use of new government guidance, and work to ensure new development provides the right infrastructure.

Seek to ensure delivery of the Local Plan policy requirement of 40% Affordable Housing on sites above the national development size threshold

Press the government to require affordable housing contributions in all new housing developments.

Apply the higher space standards in the new Local Plan, once approved.

Work to secure circa £193 million in national funding to support the relocation of Anglian Water's Cambridge Water Recycling Centre, in order to enable the development of the North East fringe of Cambridge, near Cambridge North station. Commit £800,000 in funding over the next two years, working with South Cambridgeshire and Anglian Water to develop plans, and create a Cambridge North East Fringe Area Action Plan in consultation with the local community.

Increase secure cycle parking in locations across the city to encourage more people to cycle, including

- a £150,000 Greater Cambridge Partnership investment in the city centre

- taking opportunities to add secure parking at new and improved Community Centres across Cambridge

- ensuring effective secure cycle parking provision and cycling connectivity within major new city developments

Tie student accommodation proposals to established, existing educational institutions, stopping speculative student developments with no identified end users.

Continue to protect our existing pubs from a change of use.

Develop formal planning guidance on big residential/commercial sites to set appropriate parameters on how they come forward, including land North of Cherry Hinton, the Grafton Centre Area and area plans for other parts of Cambridge.

Require biodiversity and long-term sustainability plans for all larger development sites.

Complete, with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, a city centre 'Movement and Spaces strategy', including links to transport that improve access for a growing population and giving particular attention to improving mobility and access for the disabled and less mobile.

Build on the success in controlling nuisance advertising boards, and develop proposals to address café tables on streets where they cause an obstruction.

As part of our Environmental Improvement Programme, use intelligence from the Street Charter to identify a range of funding opportunities for environmental improvements that support accessibility for people with disabilities.

Work with taxi licence holders to continue to improve disabled access in Cambridge taxis, and ensure customers requiring a wheelchair-accessible taxi have a reliable service. Continue equality and accessibility training for taxi operators.

Promote improved building accessibility in the city by working with businesses and organisations through planning guidance and seek high accessibility standards.

Develop plans to add another Changing Places toilet in the city centre.

Use our Parking Strategy, developed jointly with the County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership, and future plans for our Council car parks, to develop new initiatives that reduce peak-time congestion and air pollution in the city.

Make a success of the joint planning service between the city and South Cambridgeshire. It has a vital job in shaping the wider Cambridge Area and the handling of thousands of planning applications each year.

Employ an extra enforcement officer to make sure developments abide by their planning conditions and obligations. We will give the planning enforcement team clear delegated powers so that they are able to respond more quickly, and deal more swiftly and effectively with planning breaches.

PART THREE: MAKING CAMBRIDGE SAFER AND MORE INCLUSIVE

The Council will:

Work to make the city a safer, more inclusive and welcoming place by promoting equality and diversity. Provide support, advice and events for members of our community with protected characteristics.

Continue our Community Safety and Enforcement team's successful work with the Police and local residents and businesses to tackle anti-social behaviour, including littering, alcohol-related incidents, fly-tipping and other activity that causes severe nuisance.

Continue to fund 30% brighter overnight street lighting across Cambridge that would otherwise have been lost and so reduce the risk of crime, reduce the fear of crime, and contribute to the safety of people travelling during the night or starting their journeys in the early mornings.

Upgrade CCTV with over 100 new cameras in the city centre and car parks — the first major investment for a decade — in order to continue its vital contribution to making Cambridge safer. Also invest in relocatable CCTV, to be used in areas of the city which experience most crime or anti-social behaviour.

Ensure Council policies and delivery of services have a sustained focus on the needs of people who experience inequality, including for people who are isolated, or experience significant mental health issues. Continue to implement the Mental Health Concordat in partnership with other organisations.

Work to increase gender equality in Cambridge, working with women's groups in the city, and promoting equality within the Council.

Continue to prioritise the prevention of domestic violence and sexual exploitation and tackle victim-blaming myths, working with partner organisations, in line with Cambridge's status as a 'White Ribbon' city. Hold events such as the 2017 'Tackling Coercion' event, which was attended by over 200 people, including many victims of abuse.

Complete our target to house 100 homeless Syrian refugees in 2018, working with the Home Office and the network of East region councils. Work with Cambridge partner organisations, including the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum and Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign, to implement a quality advice service for refugees, and support wider initiatives helping refugees.

Engage young people in forums so they can have a say about services they care about, and on the future of their city.

PART FOUR: INVESTING IN IMPROVED TRANSPORT AND TACKLING POLLUTION AND CONGESTION

The Council will:

Use our role on the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver infrastructure schemes and other transport measures that support the sustainable growth of Cambridge by reducing traffic congestion and increasing walking, cycle and public transport use; and by securing additional investment from government, train companies and others.

Support new Residents' Parking schemes, including implementing the four recently voted for by a majority in those areas, and support phased consultations on more schemes across the city.

Manage off-street parking to support business and resident needs, investing in modernised payment systems and improved energy efficiency, and develop a partnership with the County Council's parking and enforcement roles. Implement parking charges at sites like Lammas Land on longer-stay parking to protect parking for recreational users and families.

Work with the Cambridge Business Improvement District (BID) in implementing its second five-year programme, together with local retailers and businesses and partners.

Maintain a high-quality and accessible city centre environment by working with the County Council, the BID and local retailers and businesses. Following success on A-board reduction, investigate similar measures for café street tables.

Develop plans for a city centre Clean Air Zone and investigate ways to reduce diesel and petrol delivery-vehicle movements into the city centre by developing further initiatives to add to the Council's £625,000 investment in electric taxi charging points, tougher taxi-licensing conditions and the new April peak-time parking tariff at city multi-storey car parks.

Investigate the potential for increased use of electric delivery vehicles in Cambridge for 'last-mile' deliveries, and continue the financial support that assisted the County Council to lift the Park and Ride parking charge from April.

Continue to deliver improved cycling routes including major work in the coming year, developing the Chisholm Trail and other additional cross-city cycling routes in Cambridge.

Work with partners to deliver Cambridge South Rail Station at Addenbrooke's by the government's target of 2022 and work to secure increased rail services serving Cambridge North station.

Support work to improve Cambridge rail station and to secure additional wider investments in the rail network benefitting Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, including deciding the preferred East—West rail route from the East Coast main line to Cambridge.

Assist the Combined Authority to investigate the delivery of the planned Cam Metro, supported by continued GCP delivery on high-quality radial public transport routes from Cambridge out through South Cambridgeshire.

Press the Combined Authority Mayor to introduce bus franchising and other improvements to limit bus fares. Create a wider range of routes including community transport services, and extend the hours of services including to Park and Rides.

PART FIVE: PROTECTING OUR CITY'S UNIQUE QUALITY OF LIFE

The Council will:

Provide swimming, sports facilities and leisure services that are accessible to everyone, targeting our resources on promoting healthy lifestyles to address health inequalities and provide access for all.

Provide 3000 free swims a year for children and families on low incomes, and expand Exercise Referral with an increased 11 GP surgeries expected to take part in the programme in 2018-19, and an additional 250 people taking part this year.

Bring forward proposals for the refurbishment or redevelopment of Jesus Green Lido, with an aim for completion by the time of its centenary in 2023.

Engage greater numbers and a more diverse range of residents in the arts and cultural life of Cambridge. Continue to support wide and diverse projects including the reopened Kettles Yard. Assist the Junction in bidding for major funding for its expansion plans.

Provide funding of £900,000 per year for Cambridge voluntary organisations, targeted to people who need help the most. Provide advice and support to the voluntary sector and investigate partnership opportunities, building on successful initiatives including the Volunteer Fair, run annually since 2014.

Undertake a feasibility study on potential improvements to the Market Square, both long-term and short-term improvements.

Involve communities in the planning, development and management of community assets, including the newly opened Storeys Field and Clay Farm Community Centres.

Implement the Council's tree strategy and existing Council initiatives for improving tree numbers and quality, including increased promotion of the Council's 'Trees for Babies' scheme.

Ensure that development which balances economic growth with the quality of life and place (including in new building design) is supported, as set out in the current and emerging Local Plans.

Work with Cambridge Live, Cambridge BID and Visit Cambridge & Beyond to develop and deliver a programme of extra outdoor public events including Night Markets and activities, a successful Big Weekend and other public events that the City Council funds, and also maximise the economic benefits from visits and tourism.

Create more wildflower gardens.

Reduce use of herbicides by the Council.

Work with the County Council on improving the management of overlapping responsibilities for the public realm, verges and roadside tree provision. Press the County Council to improve maintenance of city pavements and cycleways.

Undertake an assessment on making the River Cam corridor more accessible, while protecting its fragile environment, including installing extra public art.

Develop a 'Your Cambridge' focus in Council public realm management, emphasising what all residents can do to help their city and their rights and responsibilities, working with residents and local groups and volunteers.

Work with the police to identify the small number responsible for repeat graffiti around the city, and tackle this and other examples of damaging anti-social behaviour.

PART SIX: PROTECTING ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND TRANSFORMING COUNCIL DELIVERY

The Council will:

Invest for the future in the biggest City Council capital programme for over a decade.

Seek to protect resident services despite loss of 100% of Council core Government grant by 2019.

Make the most of learning from working with the recent independent Peer Review of the Council, that gave the Council consistently good marks, to improve the Council's future planning, processes and delivery for residents. This will include developing a 'Plan for the 2020s', our five-year strategy and financial plan for the Council and the city.

Support the case for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils and the Combined Authority to jointly manage all the business rates generated in the county, to address the infrastructure and affordable-housing deficit and tackle inequality across the area.

Stand up for Cambridge on issues including making the case to retain:

- the Cambridge Magistrates' Court
- an effective police station in the city centre when the main Parkside Police Station functions move
- Children's Centres and nurseries in Cambridge
- effective County Council operations and service access in the city if their plans to move their main offices out of Cambridge proceed.

Review existing — and explore new — opportunities for shared services, and implement a new programme of £2m investment in IT, including a new Digital Strategy and better tracking of issues from reporting by residents through to action and feedback.

On devolution, work in partnership with the Combined Authority and other councils to deliver the maximum benefit for Cambridge and Combined Authority area from the Devolution Deal and new opportunities. Challenge the Combined Authority to: create effective delivery strategies; secure increased diversity in representation and input; develop effective scrutiny processes; and enable greater participation by residents in its decisions.

Explore opportunities to develop further the City Council's investment strategy in property, housing, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Maximise benefit from the City Council's commercial property portfolio through investment in our major sites. Establish a new operational depot for the Council's Streets and Open Spaces, and Estates and Facilities teams at Cowley Road

Develop plans for a smaller Park Street Car Park, incorporating underground car and cycle parking, with an increased number of electric charging points, and wider site use to fund the works.

Ensure that resident and City Council customer contacts and queries are managed in a prompt, efficient and responsive way, adopting new self-service technologies to enable customers to access services, including out of hours.

Review city ward boundaries to take account of our growing population, ahead of implementing changes at the May 2020 elections.

PART SEVEN: TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE, AND MAKING CAMBRIDGE CLEANER AND GREENER

The Council will:

Work with our partners, businesses and residents towards our goal of making Cambridge Zero Carbon by 2050, and add new policies to adapt further to the impacts of climate change to increase the city's ability to cope with extreme weather, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Implement the actions in our Climate Change Strategy, reducing emissions from our own estate and property portfolio. Invest £250,000 in 2018/19 in extra emissions-cutting technology at Parkside Pools. Install a biomass boiler at King's Hedges Pool and at other council buildings.

Work with coach, bus and taxi operators to reduce vehicle emissions harmful to public health.

Work on a coaches strategy with the County Council and seek to relocate coaches from Queen's Road.

Continue to make recycling easier and more efficient across the city and South Cambridgeshire through the Shared Waste Service, encouraging residents and businesses to recycle more.

Set up a new 'Cambridge Water Refill' scheme to provide free drinking-water refills and reduce plastic waste.

Review and improve the cleanliness of streets and public open spaces and provide greater opportunities for the public to influence decisions on cleansing and enforcement in order to target Cambridge's most challenging locations.

Invest in new toilets at Silver Street and complete the renovation currently underway of Jesus Green toilets.

Continue to provide free pest control services for residents, which was used by over 1000 households in the last year.